

Russian Pullback in Shadowy Spy World

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WASHINGTON.

Russian intelligence chiefs are so shaken up over Western penetration of their ranks that they have summoned at least 300 of their top operatives back to Moscow for "consultation," the Herald Tribune learned last night.

Two men have been called back to the Kremlin from Washington, and at least three more are slated to leave. One attache has been recalled from Ottawa. Others have been recalled from posts all over the world.

Whether any of them will be returned to their former posts after examination by their superiors in Moscow remains to be seen.

Apparently every Russian attache or civilian intelligence employee who had any contact at any time anywhere in the world with Col. Vladimir F. Penkovsky, executed last week as a traitor in the latest Moscow spy case, has been summoned home. There is little doubt that the colonel, a top man in Soviet intelligence, was in fact a double agent, dealing with the West, as the Russians themselves charged.

It was equally apparent that in calling their men home the Russians feared not only the British and French secret services and the American Central Intelligence Agency, but also the American FBI.

The CIA operates outside the United States around the world; the FBI keeps tabs on espionage within this country, which makes the recall of two men—with more to come—from the Soviet Embassy here, an indication of the importance put upon the Penkovsky case by the Kremlin.

This information was obtained by the Herald Tribune from sources both here and abroad which can not be named, but which are considered unimpeachable in the

shadowy world of intelligence and counter-intelligence.

Few, if any, of the 300 recalled Russians have been declared persona non grata in this country.

Recalled from the Soviet Embassy in Washington April 1 was Lt. Col. Arkadi Y. Golsov, assistant air attache. Also gone home is Oieksey Kolchin, formerly employed in the embassy's military attache office. He may be a civilian.

First to go home to Moscow, when the case first started to break, was Col. Anatoli F. Rybakov, assistant air attache at the Soviet Embassy in Ottawa.

He and the others are known to have had professional contacts with the late Col. Penkovsky in the Middle East or elsewhere in the world where the executed officer served.

The Soviet anxiety over intelligence may reflect a mutual distrust within the Kremlin between GRU, the military intelligence branch, and KGB, the civilian apparatus. This in turn, can, and probably does, reflect the power struggle now going on between the more moderate civilian leaders and the hard-nosed military men who want military action now without waiting for the promised collapse of the West without use of such force.

In any case, the recall, and possible purge of the Communist intelligence apparatus which J. Edgar Hoover, FBI director, has called the most numerous and widespread in the world's history, is a back-handed tribute to the West, which has proven that it, too, can play the dangerous espionage game of penetrating a possible enemy's secret agents corps.